

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and new claim 7 is added. Accordingly, claims 1-7 are pending in this application. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 7 is added to recite the feature of original claim 2 in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,219,853 to Albert et al. ("Albert"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a magnetic head wherein a distance $\alpha 1$ between an electromagnetic conversion element and a medium contacting edge of a protective film is greater than 50 μm and less than or equal to 200 μm . Albert does not disclose, teach or suggest this feature.

Albert only discloses, at column 3, lines 62-65, a protective layer of about 25 to 50 μm . Nowhere does Albert disclose, teach or suggest, a distance between an electromagnetic conversion element and a medium contacting edge of a protective film greater than 50 μm and less than or equal to 200 μm , as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 is patentable over Albert.

Claims 2-6 depend from independent claim 1 and are likewise patentable over Albert at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection over Albert is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Albert. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Albert discloses all feature of claims 3, 5 and 6 except for deficiencies that the Office Action alleges to be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

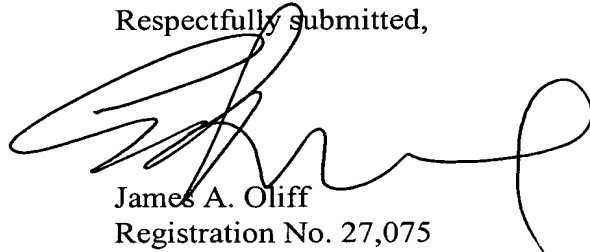
Although Applicants respectfully disagree, independent claim 1 is patentable over Albert, as discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 5 and 6 are likewise patentable over Albert at least in view of their dependence on claim 1, as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: **May 6, 2005**

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